

Alabama Board of Physical Therapy

BOARD MEMBERS:

John C. Cormier, P.T. ... Tuscaloosa

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Sonja K. Farrell, P.T. ... Huntsville

Member

**Mitzi C. Watson, P.T.A. ... Head-
land**

Member

Herbert R. Calliouet, P.T. ... B'ham

Member

**Wiley J. Christian, III, P.T. ... Mo-
bile**

Secretary

Amy Hall Smith, P.T.A. ... Cullman

Treasure

Ron Bass,... Wedowee

Consumer Member

Legal Counsel:

Stephen N. Dodd

Assistant Attorney General

Board Staff:

Kathryn Brown...Executive Director

Sheila Wright...Administrative Asst.

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From the Chair:

Leadership Through Service

I would like to thank the other Board members for expressing their confidence in my ability to serve effectively as Chairman this year. When I was appointed to the Board in January of 2002, I viewed it as a great privilege and a responsibility which I took very seriously. These feelings are even stronger for me as I think about the position of Chair. Thankfully, I am blessed to be working with a group of people who are equally committed to serving you well, have an abundance of wisdom, and come from a very diverse background. In addition to the other Board Members, we work closely with Steve Dodd as a representative from the Attorney General's office, with Don Hiltz who serves as the Board Investigator, and with Kathryn Brown and Sheila Wright who staff our office in Montgomery.

The Board meets approximately 9-10 times a year and are called upon frequently to answer questions about the legality of certain situations and practices, as well as to deal with complaints that have been submitted to the Board. When I first began serving I wondered where and how the Board came to the conclusions it did. I found it very comforting that it was a very logical and sound process that always returned at its root to the same question, "What do the statute and rules say?" I am always amazed at how often at every meeting we pull the law and rules out and pour over them. You'd think that after reading them a thousand times you wouldn't need to do this but I am also amazed at how you always gain new insights when applying these documents to new situations. We also use previous Board rulings and opinions to guide our responses and actions. Because of this I am thankful for the many dedicated and wise individuals who served on the Board in years past. We have on record many previous opinions which articulate complex ideas in a very straight forward and understandable way and I am thankful that we very often can rely on them and don't have to "reinvent the wheel."

My goal for this coming year is to be more responsive than ever in how we deal with questions and complaints that are submitted to the Board. Many questions we receive have already been answered in the past and can be responded to by Kathryn or Sheila with a previous ruling the Board has made. Others may have a different twist to them or deal with a subject matter not previously discussed by the Board. In these instances, the Board will need to meet and discuss the issue before an answer can be given. For complaints, the process of investigation and then the possibility of informal and/or formal hearings is often time consuming. During these instances when a protracted time frame is required, we will be communicating with the complainant or person submitting the question so they do not feel that their question/complaint is being neglected. We owe it to you and to the public to be decisive but not rash.

One last sentiment which I'd like to communicate is appreciation for all of you who take it upon yourselves to be active and responsive to any situations you encounter which you feel may not be consistent with our laws and rules. As you know, the Board does not go around the state looking for wrong doing. We rely on our licensees and the public to be our "eyes and ears". This is why unbecoming conduct in Rule 700-X—3-.02(2)(y) is defined as "failure to report alleged or known unethical, incompetent, illegal, unprofessional, or dishonorable conduct." I look forward to serving with the other Board members and staff and partnering with you to protect the public by ensuring Physical Therapy is practiced according to the Alabama Physical Therapy Practice Act and Administrative Code.

John Cormier, PT

NEW BOARD MEMBER



Mitzi Watson, PTA, has been appointed by the governor for a five year term to the board. Ms. Watson works at the Wiregrass Therapy and Wellness Center in Dothan as the Clinic Director and as a physical therapist assistant. She has been there for the past three years as a clinician and owner in the specialty clinic. Prior to this she was the Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education and an instructor for the Physical Therapist Assistant Program at Wallace College in Dothan since its inception in 1996. She was a certified facilitator for the Clinical Education Credentialing Course through the APTA.

Ms. Watson holds an Associate Degree as a Physical Therapist Assistant graduating from Wallace College and UAB in 1975. She has worked in a variety of settings to include acute care, OP orthopedic rehab, home health, and long term care. She is best known in the area as a provider of Myofascial Release for chronic pain management.

Ms. Watson is an active member of the Arthritis Foundation where she facilitates one of the self-help courses for the public on fibromyalgia self-management. She participates in various health fairs and given the opportunity, she continues to contribute educational segments to the PTA students at Wallace College.

We look forward to working with Ms. Watson and welcome her to the board!

WHAT IS FSBPT?

The Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy aims to protect the public by providing services that promote safe and competent physical therapy practice. They promote and assist licensing jurisdictions to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public by identifying and promoting desirable and reasonable uniformity in physical therapy regulatory standards and practices.

Some of the goals of the Federation that were presented at the Annual Conference in Kansas City in October, 2004, were:

Examination Goals: Ensure the ongoing excellence, reliability, defensibility, and validity of the National Physical Therapy Examination and related examinations.

Membership Goals: Enhance the Federation's value to its membership by developing and maintaining programs and services responsive to membership needs.

States' Rights and Professional Standards Goals: Identify and promote desirable and reasonable uniformity in physical therapy regulatory standards and practices while respecting each state's authority and responsibility to regulate physical therapy

Ron Bass, Consumer Member

The Alabama State Board of Physical Therapy Lowers Score For Foreign Trained Physical Therapist

Don't panic, the licensure requirements haven't changed a bit, however, the Alabama State Board of Physical Therapy was recently challenged to reconsider its position on setting the score for the Test of Spoken English at a perfect 60, which was "The highest score in the Nation". The board previously established the score based on its understanding of the language qualifications necessary to speak effectively to the public. Since the board's primary function is to protect the interest of the public, its position to set the highest standard possible at that time seemed appropriate. The problem is that very few, if any, non-English speaking foreign educated candidates, other than those who've completed a formal English education, could score the perfect 60 required for licensure in the State of Alabama. After a lengthy and thorough review of the spoken English requirements the board concluded that a score of 50 would be sufficient to determine the foreign applicant's ability to effectively communicate with the citizens of our state. This decision, of course, was not reached without a complete analysis because of the concern that we might fail to meet the basic needs of our state's citizens. However, our board should be commended for its democratic handling of this matter and its ability to collectively reach a majority vote on the decision to reduce the score from a perfect 60 to a 50 for foreign educated PTs, who might otherwise be denied licensure in our state. We feel the decision to lower the score was prudent; however, we agreed to re-visit this matter when and if necessary.

Wiley J. Christian, III, P.T.

Home Study Continuing Education

In the past few years home study has become a popular and convenient method for licensees to obtain the required CEU's. With the increasing numbers of home study courses available it has become difficult for the Board to screen and approve these courses. Currently our rules and regulations state: Chapter 700-X-2 "Continuing education credit may be granted for: (i) Courses, seminars and workshops which are sponsored by the APTA and/or its components ... (iii) APTA individual self-directed studies. Other self-directed studies may be considered." The Board is currently working with the Alabama Chapter of the APTA to improve this process. Continue to check our web site for more information.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Smith
Board Member

IS IT PHYSICAL THERAPY OR NOT???

Over the last six months the Board has received many questions regarding the legality of PTs and PTAs performing work of a non-physical therapy nature. Sometimes this has been initiated by employers who are trying to improve efficiencies and lower labor costs by cross training physical therapy personnel to perform other tasks when they are not at maximal capacity with their physical therapy treatments. Other times this has been initiated due to requests of clients for physical therapy personnel to perform certain evaluative services on a well population. Historically, the Board's position has been that screenings by a physical therapist may be performed without a medical referral if all of the following conditions are met: (1) no charges are assessed, (2) the client has no medical diagnosis, (3) there is no "hands on" evaluation, and (4) no written notation is made.

More recently the Board has considered this issue at length and has tried to provide further clarification. Under ALA. CODE 1975, Section 34-24-217(9), PTs and PTAs may *only* "treat" patients through the use of physical therapy. Any "treatment" of patients by other than physical therapy must be accomplished by someone other than one licensed as a PT or PTA. For the purposes of a practical and common sense means of implementing and enforcing this restriction, the Board of Physical Therapy will, in the future, follow a "bright line" rule, to the effect that *touching a patient equates to treating the patient*.

What this will mean, for example, is that ambulating the patient, for whatever reason, is physical therapy, and cannot be performed by a PT without proper evaluation and referral for physical therapy, and cannot be performed by a PTA not under the proper direction of a PT. The same with bathing a patient. Bathing involves touching, and touching is physical therapy. Examples of activities that would not be physical therapy would be feeding, serving, administrative, and/or custodial/janitorial-type services. Because these activities involve no touching of the patient, they would not require physical therapy referral and evaluation, nor would they require the direction of a PTA by a PT.

This "bright line" approach is one that we feel is reasonable and appropriate, and one that we hope serves the needs of the public, our licensed health care professionals, and the health care industry.

John Cormier, PT



Please remember to notify the board if you have a change of address.

Alabama The Beautiful

A great place to visit
The best place to live!

**ALABAMA BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY
DISCIPLINARY INVESTIGATIONS AND ACTIONS**

The Board has a three-tier system of discipline.

The lowest level of sanction involves the placing of a *letter of admonition* in a licensee's permanent file.

The intermediate level of sanction involves the licensee entering into a *guilty plea agreement* with the Board, either prior to or following a formal or informal hearing. A licensee who pleads guilty may be required to pay a fine, or be subjected to a period of license suspension, or both.

The highest level of sanction involves a finding of guilt after a *formal administrative hearing*. This level of sanction includes a fine and/or license suspension, and may include license revocation.

Disciplinary actions are matters of public record.

In addition to being included in a licensee's permanent file, disciplinary actions are also published in the Board's semi-annual newsletter.

Licensees who either plead guilty, or who are found guilty after either an informal or formal hearing, have their names and the nature of their discipline published in the Board's newsletter.

With a letter of admonition, only the nature of the disciplinary action is published.

In keeping with this policy, the following is a list of the Board's disciplinary actions since the last newsletter:

<u>Case No.</u>	<u>Name</u>
04-11-02	Tracy Rodda, PTA
Allegation:	practicing as a physical therapist assistant without a current license, caused by failure to timely renew license
Disposition:	licensee pleaded guilty; fined \$250
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04-11-03	John Umbrello, PT
Allegation:	practicing physical therapy without a current license, caused by failure to timely renew license
Disposition:	licensee pleaded guilty; fined \$250
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04-12-04	Sarah Williamson, PT
Allegation:	practicing physical therapy without a current license, caused by failure to timely renew license
Disposition:	licensee pleaded guilty; fined \$250
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04-12-05	Stephanie Landram, PT
Allegation:	practicing physical therapy without a current license, caused by failure to timely renew license
Disposition:	licensee pleaded guilty; fined \$250

NON-RENEW PHYSICAL THERAPIST

NANCY H ADAMS	3041 ROTHSCHILD DR, PENSACOLA FL
JULIE ADAMS	1039 MARS HILL RD, CARTHAGE MS
EDWARD D ANDERSON	338 E BELAIR DR, MOSES LAKE WA
MANUEL N AQUINO JR	2030 WHITE MYRTLE DR, MADISONVILLE LA
KRISTINA B ARMITAGE	613 OAK GLEN DR, BIRMINGHAM AL
BRENDAN ARMITAGE	613 OAK GLEN DR, BIRMINGHAM AL
ROBERT K BAUS	8366 PINEWOOD DR, FOLEY AL
CAROLYN S BECK	100 APPALOOSA CT, MADISON AL
RAYMOND A BELISLE	265 MOUNTAIN RD, TITUS AL
WENDI BELISLE	265 MOUNTAIN RD, TITUS AL
GILAINNE NETTLES BOYKINS	P O BOX 1432 CHRISTIANSTED, ST CROIX VI
NELL H BRADLEY	1320 ELMWOOD DR, COLUMBUS GA
DAVID E BRIGHT	409 CAMERON CR APT 705, CHATTANOOGA TN
TERRENCE E BROWN	5217 MEADOW GARDEN LN, BIRMINGHAM AL
LULIE MAGRUDER CALLAWAY	1402 ARDSLEY PL, BIRMINGHAM AL
KAREN D CARLISLE	3528 ALTABROOK DR, BIRMINGHAM AL
CHRISTOPHER T CARROLL	1309 DAN AVE, ALBERTVILLE AL
AFONSO G CASTRO	33 TRILLIUM CIR APT 714, DOTHAN AL
KIMBERLY A CHESHER	6029 FLAT ROCK RD APT 404, COLUMBUS GA
JULI NOEL CHIODETTI	200 LAKE RD #502, BELTON TX
MONICA C CLOTHIAUX	6605 EAST WAKEFIELD DR #A1, ALEXANDRIA VA
ALICE B CREQUE	300 COLONIAL LK DR APT 315, MADISON AL
KEVIN L CURTSINGER	904 HOLLINS RD, AUBURN AL
STACY LYNN DEFAZIO	1307 HAMPTON DR, AUBURN AL
TEAGUE W DELMAS	115 E EUCLID PKWY, ASHEVILLE NC
JETT PERRY DENTON	1225 KRIN AVE, BIRMINGHAM AL
TAMI DESROCHER	404 N SLIGO, CORTEZ CO
CAROLYN CHAMBERLAIN DORAN	290 OLD CAHABA TRAIL, HELENA AL
TONI O EDWARDS	1685 W PINE LAKE DR, WEST POINT GA
MONICA REESE FELS	325 LITTLE NOSE DR, CENTRE AL
DAVID B FIELD	3950 PELHAM DR, MOBILE AL
CHRISTOPHER E FOSTER	176 GARDENDALE DRIVE, DEATSVILLE AL
MICHELLE D FOWLER	6656 COLUMBUS RD, GRAND RIDGE FL
AMY G FULMER	1829 TECUMSEH TRL, PELHAM AL
MELBA A GABRIEL	1227 OLD OAK CIRCLE, BIRMINGHAM AL
JADA GORDON	119 GRADY COBB RD, DONALSONVILLE GA
KAREN L HARBISON	147 BEARTOWN RD, LORETTO TN
ROSE HARMAT	114 ROYAL AVE, THOMASVILLE GA
GREGORY W HARTLEY	451 NE 90TH ST, MIAMI FL
PAUL G HENDERSON	PO BOX 465, FALKVILLE AL
CATHY E HENDERSON	1227 PIN OAK DR, FLOWOOD MS
JACK M HILL	690 PONCE DE LEON AVE, MONTGOMERY AL
JENNIFER MONTGOMERY HODGES	65 DALTON DR, SANTA ROSA BCH FL
GABRIELLE LEAH HORNSBY	1915 23RD AVE, VERO BEACH FL
SALLY A HOWES	6342 SALADO RD, ST AUGUSTINE FL
BARBARA HUDSON	539 6TH ALLEY, THOMASVILLE AL
ADRIENNE JACKSON	5760 ARBOR STATION RD APT D, MONTGOMERY AL
ELIZABETH S JOHNS	3197 BRECKENRIDGE DR W, COLORADO SPRINGS CO
JERRY L JOHNSON	5315 33RD PL, MERIDIAN MS
MELISSA J JOHNSON	2014 UNIVERSITY AVE, PENSACOLA FL
BRIAN S JONES	322 JACKSON ST, DUPONT PA
MARILYN S JONES	344 ST LUKE RD, HATCHECHUBBEE AL
LATARSHA Y J JONES	1150 RANKIN ST APT 0-22, STONE MOUNTAIN GA
JAMES A KENNEDY	152 HILLABEE OUTBACK, OXFORD AL
MARY A KILGORE	1231 E 50TH ST, SAVANNAH GA
SARAH KIMBERLY KNOPF	4044 GEORGE BUSBEE PKWY APT 3205, KENNESAW GA
DEBORAH C LECROY	1430 12TH PLAZA, PLEASANT GROVE AL
STEPHANIE E LITTLEFIELD	1417 GREYMONT LN, TUSCALOOSA AL

HAO LIU
 LORI M MAPP
 JAMES B MARTIN
 P JILL MARTIN
 MARY MCELROY
 GREGORY D MCMANUS
 SHANE D MIXON
 VICTORIA A MOGEN
 W DONALD MYERS
 VICKI L HUTCHISON NIEDERKORN
 SHANNON C NEWMAN
 JOANNE C O'CONNOR
 HEIDI T OZAWA
 ELLEN PATTERSON
 LESLIE A PIAGET
 PAIGE B PLASH
 PAMELA JILL RAGAN
 NICOMEDES A RAMOS JR
 GEORGE B REED III
 MARION J REINSCH
 JILL SUZANNE RENEGAR
 CHARLES W RICKARD
 JASON CLARKE RILEY
 KRISTINA LIND ROBERTS
 JANINE K RODRIGUEZ
 JOSEPH A ROSE
 ANITA H RUSSELL
 SUZANNE WENDI SACKS
 SIDNEY SCARBOROUGH
 CHRISTOPHER M SCHOOLFIELD
 TANYA R SCHROEDER
 CHERYL L SELLERS
 DONOVAN O SESSIONS
 MICHAEL J SIMMONS
 DOUGLAS E SMITH
 MARY JULIA THOMAS
 KAREN S TIDWELL
 JOHN VANDERBLEEK
 ANTHONY J VOGT
 HILDE M WAERSTAD
 WILLIE R WALKER
 DEENA L WHITE
 LINDA S WILLIAMS
 THERESA M WILLIAMS
 ELIZABETH M WILLIAMSON
 RICHARD M. D. WILSON
 ADAM A ZUCHARA

108 ROYAL PLACE, PELHAM AL
 4721 S SHADES CREST RD, BESSEMER AL
 6416 SUGARCREEK DR N, MOBILE AL
 6416 SUGAR CREEK DR N, MOBILE AL
 755 W CORNELIA AVE APT 308, CHICAGO IL
 P O BOX 2283, FARMINGTON NM
 2516 HONDURAS DR, GAUTIER MS
 911 E SPRUCE ST, SEQUIM WA
 3649 BROOKWOOD RD, BIRMINGHAM AL
 PO BOX 1825, JULIAN CA
 10298 JACOB CT, FAIRHOPE AL
 4614 BALTUSROL CT, COLUMBUS GA
 260 ANATOLE LN, CLEVELAND TN
 PO BOX 1294, FAIRHOPE AL
 405 LAKE GEORGE CIR, WEST CHESTER PA
 57 MCGREGOR AVE S, MOBILE AL
 595 BURNS RD, RAMER TN
 6580 MILL CREEK CIR, BIRMINGHAM AL
 P O BOX 123, WILDWOOD GA
 1010 CTY RD 11, FLORENCE AL
 2517 B PARK LANE CT S, BIRMINGHAM AL
 106 CALDWELL DR, FLORENCE AL
 655 MARIE ANTOINETTE APT 135, LAFAYETTE LA
 100 CANDLEWOOD DR, ENTERPRISE AL
 3918 WESLEY DR, COLORADO SPRINGS CO
 1298 MAUBILA RD, GROVE HILL AL
 705 LIBERTY CIR, BROWNSBORO AL
 3550 GRANDVIEW PKWY #316, BIRMINGHAM AL
 9641 ROYAL WOODS CT, MOBILE AL
 PO BOX 531, CARAWAY AR
 109 ELM DR, PFLUGERVILLE TX
 2629 CHOCOCCOLOCCO RD #3A, ANNISTON AL
 6933 MT ZION RD, WACO GA
 1525 APPLGATE LN, ALABASTER AL
 4414 FORTUNE HOLE RD, HAMILTON GA
 2400 CUMBERLAND PKWY APT 203, ATLANTA GA
 14002 SINIARD CIR, HUNTSVILLE AL
 420 LADIGA ST SE, JACKSONVILLE AL
 216 GARDENS PL, BIRMINGHAM AL
 39 LAKEHILLE AVE, ARLINGTON MA
 3580 MCGEHEE PL DR S #1801, MONTGOMERY AL
 416 RED OAK CT, MONTGOMERY AL
 2222 BREWERS LANDING, MEMPHIS TN
 8737 STONEBRIDGE DR, MONTGOMERY AL
 115 CIRCLE DR 1341, MOOREVILLE MS
 2384 APT E DUNWOODY CROSSING, ATLANTA GA
 3549 CURRY LN APT 2404, ABILENE TX

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PAULA E ALVAREZ
 GARY K AVERY
 ROBERT E BABSON
 AMY MAYS BALLARD
 ALISON L BARRY
 HOUSTON O BATES
 ROOP K BEZAWADA
 LARA H BROWN
 ROBERT JEREMY BURNS
 ANGELA (AMY) Y CARROLL
 IVANA D CHAMPION
 LISA Q CHANEY
 JONATHAN W COOPER
 APRIL MARIE DEANE
 JAMIE DIANE DEFILIPPIS
 JEFFREY R DOUGLASS
 CAMILLE L DURHAM
 JAN B FARRO
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 APRIL L GREEN
 SCOTT W HOBBS
 LESLIE E HOLMES
 AMY S JACOBS
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 JEFFREY B KEITH
 CALLIE H KIRKPATRICK
 DEBRA LAWRENCE
 ALICIA N MCKENZIE
 ERIC C MCMASTERS
 CHERIE METZ
 SHARON S MOORE
 DARINKA A MOREIRA
 DEBBRA K OKRZESIK
 KATHRYN C PAESANO
 DAIDRA L PARRISH
 JOHN PASSARELLA
 DONNA W PEARSON
 ASHLEY DIANE PINTER
 ROBERT SCOTT
 HEIDI D SHINN
 DUSTIN B SMITH
 SARA LYNN WANTUCK
 AMANDA C WILBANKS
 APRIL C WILSON

31653 RHETT DR, SPANISH FORT AL
 1411 ARROWHEAD, ALABASTER AL
 3239 BLOOMING GROVE RD, JASPER AL
 701 LANSDOWNE LN, RIDGELAND MS
 7964 S TEABERRY AVE, TUCSON AZ
 1124 20TH ST S #404, BIRMINGHAM AL
 6351 TAMAPALS AVE, SAN JOSE CA
 3129 VERA VALLEY RD, FRANKLIN TN
 1605 EASTMORELAND #1, MEMPHIS TN
 1309 DAN AVE, ALBERTVILLE AL
 5500 DARA CANE, GRAND BAY AL
 1512 HERITAGE DR, COLUMBIA TN
 602 VANCE RD, HUNTSVILLE AL
 9531 CEDAR CREEK DR, BONITA SPRINGS FL
 7400 J OLD WELL ST, CHARLOTTE NC
 2519 PARK LN CT S APT E, BIRMINGHAM AL
 PO BOX 7156, ST THOMAS VI
 3221 ESSEX DR, MANSFIELD TX
 9325 GREENLEAF DR, SPANISH FORT AL
 14142 LORRAINE RD # 56, BILOXI MS
 27180 OAK GROVE RD, ELKMONT AL
 11737 BALSAM CT, SPANISH FORT AL
 P O BOX 582, HANCEVILLE AL
 2015 LITTLE CORE RD, BOAZ AL
 305 LOBEL CT, MANDEVILLE LA
 812 9TH AVE SE, DECATUR AL
 100 WOODGLENN DR, CEDARTOWN GA
 7320 CHING DAIRY LOOP RD S, MOBILE AL
 8493 CHARLEY BOOTHE RD, FAIRHOPE AL
 107 2ND AVE PO BOX 292, LORETTO TN
 2675 PILGRIM WAY, SOUTHSIDE AL
 731 AVE A, SELMA AL
 3382 BROOKVIEW TRACE, HOOVER AL
 11420 QUEENS WAY, THEODORE AL
 4441 LAKEVIEW GLEN DR, MEDINA OH
 5779 VININGS RETREAT WAY, MABLETON GA
 15 CRESTVIEW CIR, FLORENCE AL
 1235 WORTHINGTON ST, CHATTANOOGA TN
 1301 DERBY TRACE, NASHVILLE TN
 111 WESTRIDGE CT, DALEVILLE AL
 219 E 22ND ST, ANNISTON AL
 212 IDLEWOOD DR, CHICKASAW AL
 2850 WYNTERHALL RD #1008, HUNTSVILLE AL
 2822 EVA RD, FALKVILLE AL
 324 CRESTVIEW ST, ATHENS AL